

that diplomatic ability, that shall some day confound all control cabinets. Oh, my debts, I feel your presence like that of guardian angels! If I be lazy, you prick me to action; if elate, you subdue me to reflection; and thus it is that you alone can secure that continuous yet controlled energy which conquers mankind.<sup>1</sup>

No doubt like Fakredeen Disraeli grew \* sometimes little wearied even of the choice excitement of pecuniary embarrassment. It was too often the same story, the adventures monotonous, the characters identical.' The characters, however, were not always sordid. From those early days in which he took Evans, his fellow clerk, for partner in a speculation in South American shares he showed a notable capacity for enlisting<sup>1</sup> the good office of friends, for inspiring them with confidence in his future and winning and retaining their affection. 'The singular good services of Pyne to me' is an entry in the Mutilated Diary for 1836. Pyne was a prosperous solicitor who had succeeded Austen as the repository of Disraeli's confidence in these unsavoury matters, and Disraeli's letters to him, luckily preserved, tell a tale of which one hardly knows whether it calls more often for tears or laughter. By May, 1836, Disraeli, through Pyne's good offices, has been relieved of some of his most pressing claims, and elate with his temporary freedom is ready for any fresh enterprise that presents itself. A new weekly journal under the highest patronage is about to be started and he has been offered and has provisionally accepted half the proprietorship, which however will require £500. 'I have little resources except the £200 which are in fact yours, but I think I could scrape enough together. The object is considerable. This speculation, if there be any virtue in calculation, may turn out, and quickly, a considerable property.' How Pyne regarded the speculation there is nothing to show, but by July his client is in trouble again. 'Peel has asked me to

<sup>1</sup> *Tancred*, Bk. V. ch. 3.